

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, July 6, 2006

**Buffalo Eligible for DHS Port Security Funding for First Time**

**Washington, DC** - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, is pleased to announce that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Infrastructure Protection Grant Programs has for the first time listed Buffalo as one of the nation's 100 most important ports, making the City eligible to participate in its Port Security Grant Program.

**"The Port of Buffalo is one of our nation's most active and important points of entry,"** Rep. Slaughter said. **"I encourage the City of Buffalo to actively pursue this grant. Our ports remain a major Achilles heal in our national security system, one which we have to address aggressively."**

The Port Security Grant Program will make more than \$168 million available for the nation's 100 most critical ports to enhance the security of their infrastructure. More information on the program can be accessed on the Department of Homeland Security's website by clicking [here](#).

The announcement from DHS follows the recent disclosure that Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding for the Buffalo-Niagara region was cut from \$7.2 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 to FY \$3.7 million in 2006. DHS has also made clear that Buffalo-Niagara will likely lose all UASI funding in FY 2007.

**"A grant from the Port Security Program will be a major step forward in recouping our losses in federal security funding,"** Rep. Slaughter said. **"I'll work hard to help the City secure this grant."**

The Port of Buffalo is the 28th busiest seaport nation-wide, and ranks seventh among Great Lakes ports.

**###**